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Swedish EU Presidency - Agricultural and Forestry Agenda

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

Fishery Products

Livestock and Products

Solid Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

On July 1, 2009, Sweden will take over the Presidency of the European Union and will lead the work of the EU for six months. This report gives an overview of the agricultural and forestry agenda.

General Information:

Within a week, Sweden will assume the Presidency of the European Union. Among other priorities, Sweden has identified three in the area of agriculture (including forestry) and fisheries. Number One is the fisheries policy where Sweden will initiate the debate on the future shaping of the policy during its Presidency. The second involves food and climate, where two of the major global challenges facing agriculture are managing the impact of agriculture on climate and the impact of climate change on agriculture, and securing global food supply. The third concerns sound animal

husbandry and healthy animals, and here several animal welfare issues will be in focus during autumn 2009. The aim of the Swedish Presidency in this area is to advance work on animal welfare issues and keep the debate alive.

The informal meeting of Agriculture Ministers will take place in Växjö September 13-15, 2009, under the leadership of Sweden's Minister for Agriculture, Eskil Erlandsson. The theme of this meeting is agriculture and climate change, based on various aspects. A great deal of time during an informal ministerial meeting is also devoted to informal discussions and networking activities.

For more detailed information, please visit the website of the Swedish Presidency: <http://www.se2009.eu/en/>

Although there is no common policy for forestry in the EU, there are indeed common issues that need to be discussed, such as climate change and the increased demand for bioenergy as well as the future role of sustainable forest management. A meeting of EU Directors-General for Forestry will take place on September 30 - October 1, 2009 in Hindås, Sweden.

Other issues on the forestry agenda during the Swedish Presidency include:

- Due diligence regulation (illegal logging)
- Climate change negotiations (forestry not included in current climate instruments, UN framework convention on climate change)
- FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade), voluntary partnership agreements
- Mid-term Evaluation of the EU Forest Action Plan (results to be presented autumn 2009)
- UNFF9 (United Nations Forum on Forests)
- New renewable energy directive (demand for forest biomass, sustainable criteria for solid biomass)